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always have interest and value. The present *Life* will be serviceable to a large circle of readers. Dr. Miller was one of the outstanding spiritual figures in the generation which is now passing away; and he had a positive mission to the church universal. In a period when modern science was putting forth arrogant claims, when criticism appeared to many to be dissolving away the heart of the Bible, and when the older and more austere conception of God was fast losing its hold, Dr. Miller was a prince among those who emphasized the love of God and led the way back to that simple, humanitarian theology which lies at the basis of Christianity. The keynote of his life appears in a letter concerning his experience as a divinity student: "By far the most lasting influences of my seminary life were its fellowships. . . . That which has stayed with me most persistently during these years has not been the theology, the church history, the New Testament Greek, or the Old Testament Hebrew, but the memory of certain men and the impressions which they made upon my life" (p. 70).

The Making of a Nation. Twelve Studies on the Beginnings of Israel's History. By Charles Foster Kent and Jeremiah Whipple Jenks. New York: Scribner. Pp. x+101. \$1.00.

These studies have a number of objects: to present the constructive results of modern biblical scholarship in such a way that the lay reader may be in a position to judge these results for himself and to use them in Bible-study; to introduce the men and women of today to that which is most vital in the literature and thought of the Old Testament; to interpret the Old Testament into the language of modern life; and to show how closely the Old Testament helps to answer the pressing questions now confronting the nations.

These are worthy objects; and the names of the writers guarantee that the book is of service for those for whom it is prepared. It will be useful to Bible classes in churches, colleges, and Christian Associations, as well as to individual readers and students.

A History of the Eastern Roman Empire from the Fall of Irene to the Accession of Basil I (A.D. 802-867). By J. B. Bury. New York: Macmillan, 1912. Pp. xv+530. \$4.00.

Professor Bury more than twenty years ago published his two well-known volumes upon *The Later Roman Empire*, which covered the history of the Byzantine Empire from Theodosius the Great's death to the fall of Irene. The present

book continues the subject, but on a larger scale, to the accession of Basil I in 867. It is interesting to observe proportions. Gibbon merely sketched this epoch. Here is a solid book of 530 pages devoted to sixty-five years of history. If Mr. Bury lives to complete this great subject in the same proportion it will fill a total of twelve volumes—from three to four times as much space as Gibbon used.

No one save the specialist has any idea of the immense progress that has been made in Byzantine research in the last thirty years. The *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*, founded by Krumpholtz, has already reached its twenty-first volume. An enormous amount of manuscript material hitherto unknown or uncritically edited has been printed in recent years, and the new light thrown by archaeology, especially Bulgarian archaeology, has been very valuable. And yet Mr. Bury says in the preface that "the history of Byzantine civilization will not be written for many years to come."

Mr. Bury corrects the false disposition to regard the period before the mighty Basilian revival as relatively unimportant. The modern historian has learned the importance of transition epochs. The history of the Amorion period is a complex mingling of racial, religious, and institutional elements. Nowhere else in English will the student find so clear and full an account of the intricate and important influences exercised by the Slavonic race and the Bulgarian and Magyar peoples. The origin of Russia is here outlined by a master-hand. Over against this fierce, new pressure on the north is set the Saracen invasion from the south. Naturally ecclesiastical matters have to receive large attention. But the treatment is so refreshing that even a layman may read and not be weary. The most readable and illuminating part, however, to the reviewer has been the pages which deal with the economic and social history of the Eastern Roman Empire. The commerce of the Byzantine world, the strain of a highly organized and almost caste structure of society, the burden of a heavy and complex system of taxation, the play of powerful moral and religious forces, the influence of elusive personalities—all these make the work a fascinating history of civilization.

A most serviceable volume is the *Religious Forces of the United States*, prepared by Dr. H. K. Carroll, in charge of the division of churches, 1911 census (Scribner; \$2.00). The work is already well known but in its present shape is revised and brought down to 1910. Statistics, of course, are not altogether reliable even though gathered by the census, but error in statistics as those that deal with the religious forces probably offset each other as a basis for comparison. The statistics given in the book are exceedingly interesting, as well as the descriptions of the different bodies. Anyone who is not acquainted